

Gary Municipal Airport Authority District



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TO: A.W. Douglas; Ph.D, P.E.
FROM: Levell Gatewood
SUBJECT: Bird Activity at Gary Airport, From Jan-1980 thru June-1982
DATE: August 13, 1982 *QY*

Bird activity at Gary Airport is a daily occurrence. Birds are sighted, visibility permitting, throughout the day. Migratory ducks, sea gulls, pheasants, quails, hawks, black birds, and various other species of birds can be observed quite frequently. To record each occurrence of bird activity at the Gary airport would be an impossible task. Therefore, only bird activity that presented an imminent danger to aircraft landing, taking off, or overflying Gary airport is recorded herein.

Of all the bird activity at Gary Airport, Seagulls have been the greatest hazard to aircraft. Although there have been very few bird strikes reported to the tower by pilots, there have been occasions when more than a few seagull carcasses have been found on our runways, and in the area immediately south and southwest of runway twelve. Seagulls in great numbers, fly to and from the landfill directly adjacent the airport, and often return within minutes after being driven off by our airport personnel.

It is apparent to all of the airport personnel assigned to the control tower that there is a direct correlation between the seagulls that

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constantly frequent the airport; and the landfill west of the airport. Local pilots that are familiar with seagull activity west of the airport, often report sighting hundreds of gulls feeding in that area, and when possible fly around the landfill to avoid them. (The landfill is located directly under a portion of the traffic pattern for runways 02/20 and 12/30.)

Note:

In the absence of being able to isolate birds observed to a specific location, the terms "Vicinity of Airport, and scattered over field," are used.

Also, those days throughout the years for which bird sightings are not listed, were times when bird activity was present, but due to poor visibility, or various reasons, posed no immediate threat to aircraft operations.

Further, sea gull activity mentioned throughout this report, and particularly those sightings underlined, for the most part, are generated by East Chicago, Indiana's landfill. Specifically, that portion of the landfill that is located immediately adjacent to the airport, and in an area west of the departure end of the instrument runway (runway three zero) that 90% of our jet, and larger aircraft use. (See attachment # 1 for exact location of landfill.)